

JEAN ELIOT'S
LETTER

DEAR SUSAN: It's hard to realize that Christmas is upon us, another Christmas added by the world devastating war in Europe. I believe, however, that in the last year or two we've learned a truer appreciation of the real Christmas spirit and are beginning to celebrate the beautiful festival with less toll and travail.

In the first place there isn't so much of the promiscuous giving which made Christmas shopping a task and not a pleasure.

One hears no more of the S. P. U. G's, but in their short existence they have accomplished something that has made Christmas happier and easier for hundreds of families, whose means and time are limited, without in any way affecting the pleasant custom of remembering one's acquaintances with a friendly greeting on Christmas Day.

"Shop Early" Crusade Shows Its Effects.

Then, too, the "shop early" crusade has had marked effect on the Christmas crowds. There are still some of us who are remiss, but I think we can celebrate our Christmas in Washington this year without having on our conscience hundreds of men and women whose Christmas is spoiled by the utter fatigue incident to long hours of standing and caring for the wants of belated shoppers.

Even the children are learning to know the pleasure of giving as well as receiving. The costly elaboration of many children's parties has been curtailed, and in particular, there isn't a youngster connected with any of the embassies or legations of the countries at war who has not given up some of his or her gifts for the sake of the "little children who have no Christmas."

Cosmopolitan Festival Here Just the Same.

Nevertheless Christmas will be a cosmopolitan festival here from the number of little "diplomatic children" who bring the customs of many countries to the celebration of the festival. At the British embassy there'll be the usual Christmas tree for the children of the Ambassador, Betty and Anthony Spring-Rice. There's to be no regular "party," however, "because of the war," but they will share their Christmas festivities with the other kiddies connected with the embassy.

Let me see, there are the two little Barclay boys, Colville, "half-past three," and Cecil, just two, sons of the Ambassador, the Embassy and Mrs. Colville Barclay; and the military attaché, Colonel the Hon. Murchough O'Brien, has two sons, Murchough, aged seven, and his small brother, Edward Cecil. Both the youngest Barclay boy and little Edward Murchough O'Brien were born in Washington and both are sons of Sir Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice.

Two Other Interesting Youngsters at Embassy.

Two other interesting youngsters are Mr. and Mrs. John Joyce Broderick's boys, Edward and Morris—there's not a girl in the lot to keep Betty company. Mr. Broderick is temporarily attached to the embassy as assistant commercial adviser, and the family is established at the Ontario for the winter. There'll also be a Christmas tree at the O'Brien home, and the colonel has asked a few of his boys' small friends to share it with them. The party will be quite small, however, as the Hon. Mrs. O'Brien is detained in England by the illness of her mother.

No Celebration at French or Russian Embassies.

There are no children connected with the Russian embassy at this time; and the Secretary of the French Embassy and Mme. de Laboulaye, who are the only members of their embassy staff blessed with kiddies, will forgo a Christmas celebration as they lost a small son but six months ago.

At the Italian embassy are two children, Agnese, who, at fourteen, is budding into a charming girl, and Stefano, seven or eight, to make merry at Christmastime; and little Horace Havenith, son of the Minister of Belgium and Mme. Havenith, is reveling in his first Christmas in the country, although most of his toys and playthings have been sacrificed to make a Christmas for some of the poor little homeless Belgian children.

Norwegian Envoy's Children To Have Party.

The Minister of Norway and Mme. Bryn, whose four youngsters have become quite Americanized during their six years in this country, always make much of Christmas, and there is always a little party about the great tree which rears its glittering head almost to the ceiling.

Sigmund, Marguerite, John, Laura, from the eldest to the youngest children are students at the Friends School.

The Swiss Minister and Mme. Ekenren will have a tree for their little girls, Elsie and Christina; and Kurt Ritter, son of the Swiss Minister and Mme. Ritter, will also have his tree. Their older son, Max, is at school in Switzerland.

Mrs. Axel Wickfeldt's sturdy boys, sons of the late Clarence Moore, may

also be rated among the diplomatic children this year.

Latin-American Youngsters Observe Pretty Custom.

There are numerous youngsters from Latin-America who are spending their Christmas in Washington and observing some of the pretty Christmas customs in vogue in Latin countries; the Naon boys and girls, for instance, two of them, Romulo, Jr., John Joseph, Isabel, Felice, and the baby, "Carollita," as she is always called. Then Dr. and Mme. Torralbas, of the Cuban legation, have a handsome young son; and there are four children, Marie Josephine, Anna Leopold, and Edouard, in the family of the Charge d'Affaires of Chile and Senora Munizaga-Varela, for whom Christmas festivities are in order.

Only One Representative of Central Powers.

Children are scarce among the representatives of the central powers. The Zwidenek youngsters are at school in Austria; and the Counselor German, Knappe, and Prince Hatzfeldt-Trachenberg, who have young children, are in too deep mourning to think of celebrating. Which leaves only the gifted little daughter of the Turkish Charge and Mme. Husain Bey in the reckoning. Her mother is an Englishwoman.

Perhaps the most interesting item as to the Christmas of the diplomatic children is that of Wellington Koo, Jr., the little American-born son of the Chinese Minister and Mrs. Koo, aged about six months, is not too young for Christmas.

He is to celebrate American fashion with a tree—and all the trimmings. He is an engaging little thing, who spends as much time outdoors in his perambulator as possible—and most of the rest in the sunny bay window conservatory—a little hot house blossom, with the pinkest of pink cheeks and the brightest of bright eyes.

With or Without?

That is the question. With or without? A stick, or no stick? These are the absorbing questions of the hour, Susan, in our really best circles.

Apologues, of course, the concoction of the punch. The police chief of Washington decided the other day, it seems, that one may not, without violating the excise law, treat a friend, or a party of friends, to strong drink, which notoriously is raging, and giveth its color in the cup; also the countenance.

If that decision carries as far as its obvious implications—that's what a lawyer friend told me between dashes the other evening in a dress-suit opinion—then nobody may put a punch in his punch. The rum and champagne and the rest of the wicked but palatable addenda are barred, and unless you take out a license before giving your party, it'll have to be a grape juice function—providing you keep the law.

Sounded like a good joke and nothing more serious, until the White House adopted the dictum and performed accordingly at its first reception of the season last Tuesday evening.

The President being entrusted with administration of the laws of the land, and being, in especial, a sort of grand duke of Washington, must in decency keep strictly within the law, and so there was no time in the White House punch. Last year an excellent champagne flavor was observable in it. This time it was just a simple and uninspiring fruit punch; not an extra dance or a hand-squeeze in a barrel of it.

We don't know, of course, whether it was mere coincidence, or had significance. Maybe the White House had gone on the grape juice cart independently, but certain it is that the most engaging conversation topic of the evening concerned that punch. Did the President and Mrs. Wilson leave out the stick because Mr. Justice Pugh tipped 'em that it wasn't recherche this season?

Southern Society in Contempt—And Good Graces.

If that was the reason, then the Southern Society got into contempt of court, but into the extremely good graces of its guests by serving punch at the thrilling punch at its big party later in the week.

Meanwhile hosts and hostesses are worried out of all comfort about whether they dare to make punch strong enough to float a submarine. It would be a fearsome thing for Major Pullman to slip into a big party some evening and lug half the dress suits and dinner gowns in town off to goal—I like it that way because it's more gruesome—for breaking the excise law.

Next to the punch we talked about dancing at the White House, and one or two youngsters were bold enough to inquire if I thought they'd be reprimanded if they tried to "start something." Certainly the music was tempting, and, after 10:30 there was plenty of space in the East Room.

Mrs. Christian Hemmick Gives Up Quarters.

Mrs. Christian Hemmick has given up the quarters she had at the Colony

Club in New York for a while, and has taken Ben All Haggins' wonderful studio for the winter months.

Which gives rise to the hope that she will take up her brush again. Mrs. Hemmick is too clever a painter to give it up entirely for other forms of artistic expression. Mr. Hemmick is now in Pittsburgh, but expects to be in New York a good deal after January.

New That You've Got Him.

What're You Going to Do? Sydney Brooks, the distinguished English publicist, writing in the New York Times, says "some day, perhaps, someone will arise with courage enough to frame and enforce an entire protocol governing the matter of precedence and social usages in diplomatic and official society). When that day comes Washington will gain in tranquillity what it loses in spice."

When the day does come—and the whole tendency is toward a stricter observance of etiquette—I hope there will be a chapter in what my maid calls the "etiquette book" on "What to do with a President when you've got him."

Mr. Wilson and several of his predecessors have been very generous about attending many of the balls, receptions, and other semi-public functions to which the Chief Executive is invited, and certainly the President's presence adds immeasurably to the interest of the function.

Usually his arrival with the ladies of his party is marked by some degree of pomp and ceremony, and what is more important, by some certainty on the part of his hosts, as to the proper form of the function.

But after the greetings are over there are many awkward moments for all concerned, and usually the President's retreat is almost in the nature of a rout.

The Wax Works at the Southern Ball.

Take, for instance, the Southern Society's ball at the Pan-American building.

The first little informal reception, when the President met the guests of honor, the diplomats of Pan-America, was very pleasant, the supper for the distinguished guests a really charming affair.

But between whiles, when the notables were seated in even rows in a sort of robed-off box and the other guests crowded around for a glimpse of them, I could think of nothing but Mrs. Jarley's wax works.

It wasn't the fault of the hosts, for it was a beautiful party and the arrangements were all carefully thought out and just as carefully executed. Nor was it the fault of the President and his train, who always meet every situation with dignity and good taste.

When the President Got Stranded at Ball.

At the Navy Relief ball the President and his party were half way across the room on their way out, when it was suddenly decided that some formal notice should be taken of their departure and the band struck up "The Star Spangled Banner."

There they had to stand at attention in the middle of the room until it was all over.

The same sort of thing will continue to happen until there is some definite understanding of the etiquette which should attend the arrival of the President, his departure, and the time which he spends at a social function.

These Court Commands From St. John's Church.

Have you seen the invitations the rector, wardens and vestry of St. John's Church are sending out for its centennial celebration, January 13 and 14?

No "command" to the Court of St. James was ever so imposing and none, I'm confident, more than half so large.

It seems to me, with the price of paper what it is and with times so hard in this neck o' woods it might have been better—but I suppose that's the business of the rector, the wardens and the vestry.

In the hundred years of its existence, St. John's, the Church of the Presidents, has had an interesting history and many men of consequence have worshipped there.

There will be an anniversary service at St. John's at 3 o'clock Saturday, January 13, to begin the celebration, with the President, the Bishop of Washington, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, the Rev. Wallace Redcliffe, and Rear Admiral Charles H. Stockton as the speakers; and then a reception at Rauscher's from 4:30 until 7 o'clock.

Three special services will be given in the church on the following day. And I almost forgot to tell you that

the rector, Dr. Roland Cotton Smith, will give an historical address at the morning service on Sunday, January 7, in preparation for the events of the next week.

Herbert Stablers on Many Smart Dinner Lists.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Stabler were among the guests at Mrs. Walsh's dinner Thursday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Stabler also dined with Mrs. John B. Henderson on the occasion of her first formal hospitality this season. Indeed, the name of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Stabler graces numerous smart dinner lists these days; but I can't quite get used to the name.

To be sure young Mr. Stabler's given name is Jordan Herbert, but in Baltimore, which is his home, he has always been known as "Jordan Stabler," and it was by that name he was introduced to me in Stockholm four years ago. He was attached to the American legation in Sweden then.

First Residence Here Since He Became Diplomat.

This is, I think, the first time Mr. Stabler has lived in Washington since he entered the diplomatic service, and certainly it is the first winter Mrs. Stabler has been here since their marriage in London two years ago while Mr. Stabler was on the American embassy staff. She was Elizabeth Wells, of Boston, only daughter of the late Mr. Frank Wells, and her mother was a Hinducooper. Her two brothers, George and Edward Wells, have many friends among the younger set here.

The Stablers have Mrs. Richard Hooker's house this winter, and are worth while additions to the ranks of the younger members of the diplomatic and official contingent. Mr. Stabler is now head of the Bureau of Latin American Affairs of the State Department.

Work Already Begun On New Cuban Legation.

Work has already begun on the new Cuban legation in Sixteenth street—yes, the contract was let ten days ago to A. B. Watts & Co., of Baltimore. Dr. Torralbas, first secretary of the legation, signed the papers on behalf of the Cuban government.

The building, which will be one of the handsomest legation residences in Washington, is to be completed about the 1st of next October; plans are already being made for a housewarming on October 10. That's a historic day for the Republic of Cuba, for it is the anniversary of the day the first blow for freedom was struck.

By way of a pleasant coincidence, it was the present minister's father, bearer of the same name, Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, who headed the little revolution of 1895, the fateful spark of the great unrest which resulted in the freeing of Cuba, full forty years later.

Dr. Cespedes Coming Home After Vacation.

Dr. Cespedes is just returning from a business trip to Cuba, and with him Mme. de Cespedes, who went to Key West to meet him.

And now Dr. Torralbas, and his charming wife are leaving for a belated vacation.

Dr. A. Forcade, recently secretary of the Cuban legation in Norway, comes to Washington to relieve him; but I do hope Dr. and Mrs. Torralbas will return when their three months' leave is up. There have been no pleasant members of the younger diplomatic contingent in Washington for some time.

It is probable that Dr. Forcade and his wife will sublet the Torralbas' apartment in Sixteenth street for the winter months.

Club of Colonial Dames Buys Big New Home.

Not to be outdone by the Washington Club, which acquired five new quarters several years ago, the Club of Colonial Dames has purchased a large and handsome house in K Street, just a block from the Washington Club.

They bought the big, beautiful, gray stone house between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets, across from the Parkwood, where dear old Miss Gale lived for many years and died about five years ago.

The house is really magnificent, cost something over \$70,000, and was built by day labor, with great care and thought. The club, of course, did not pay half that sum for it, and got a tremendous bargain, I think.

Though it has been empty since Miss Gale's death, the residence has been well cared for, even to a furnace fire in winter.

One or Two Extra Windows to Be Cut.

There was really no need for improvement, but the powers that be decided to have one or two extra windows cut and had the drawing room floor re-laid, so that the club could will be the first thing to catch

the eye on entering the door. The rooms are charmingly arranged, and will make a lovely setting for the many parties which take place at the club every season. The members will take possession early in the new year.

The Club of Colonial Dames, as you probably know, is quite distinct from the Society of Colonial Dames, although its membership is composed entirely of Colonial Dames affiliated with the various State chapters, who live in Washington.

The club has occupied for several years the first floor of the residence of Dr. and Mrs. A. R. Shands, 601 Sixteenth street, but the members have long desired more commodious quarters.

Friday a Busy Day For Debutantes Here.

Friday last was a busy day with the debutantes, for three were presented during the twenty-four hours; Minna Blair, Mary Veder and Candace Howard.

As Minna Blair's coming out was an evening party, it did not interfere with the arrangements of the other two. Candace's reception and Mary's tea did clash a bit, however, and she divided their time between the two parties and rush from one to the other. All three of these functions were given away from the homes of the debutantes, one at Rauscher's, one at the Washington Club, and the third at the Club of Colonial Dames.

At Candace Howard's party were three interesting New York buds, Dorothy Merrill, Evelyn Payne and Jeannette Pruyn, who came to town on Thursday. They accompanied Candace from New York, where she had been for a week or more attending their several coming out parties. Jeannette Pruyn, for one, was presented last Saturday at a reception at Sherry's and it was a really brilliant occasion.

Jeannette Inherits Her Mother's Grace.

Jeannette is the daughter of Mrs. Thurber Pruyn, and inherits her mother's grace and talents; Mrs. Pruyn, you know, was one of the most gifted dancers on the amateur stage. Jeannette's grandfather was the late Francis B. Thurber, a very prominent New York merchant, who died after her grandmother, who did much good work aiding comic opera artists who aroused her interest. Her great-aunt was Candace Wheeler, who wrote "Content in a Garden," and founded the first society of Decorative Arts in this country. Mrs. Boudinot Keith, formerly Dora Wheeler, portrait painter and designer in stained glass, is Jeannette's cousin.

No Formal Debut For Her. Helen Claxton Decides.

Helen Claxton has about decided not to make a formal debut, but will slip out by way of a series of luncheons and dinner parties. The luncheon series was inaugurated on Friday, when she had twelve of the younger girls at a most charming party. One of the most interesting of the guests was little Edna Hamilton Young, daughter of Mrs. John H. Young and the late Congressman Young. She is still in school, but will make her debut next winter.

This week and the next are given over almost exclusively to the debutantes, as the youths of corresponding age. Starting on Friday with Mrs. Grinnell's dance for Elizabeth and George Grinnell, there is a succession of some sort every day and a dance every night until New Year Day. Even the debutantes have a slip out by way of a series of corresponding age. Starting on Friday with Mrs. Grinnell's dance for Elizabeth and George Grinnell, there is a succession of some sort every day and a dance every night until New Year Day.

Billy and Peggy Mann are home for the holidays, and Billy is sporting his first dress suit. He was so excited about coming home, not only on account of the parties but because the marriage of his uncle, Howard Meyers, and his aunt-by-adoption, Flannet Henley—he adores the pair—in set for Saturday next, that he not only wrote all instructions about trains, etc., to his father but wired the same information several times. He and Peggy's party the day after Christmas is going to be a quite wonderful affair, but I refuse to tell you about it ahead of time.

Bright Spots in a Day Otherwise Unusually Quiet.

The usual New Year Day receptions at the home of the Secretary of War and Mrs. Baker and the Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Daniels—and I mustn't forget the Edson Bradley's party—will be bright spots in a day which promises to be unusually quiet.

The White House reception is definitely declared off. Mrs. Marshall will be away; neither Mrs. Lansing nor Mrs. McAdoo will receive; and the other ladies of the Cabinet have just about decided that it will simplify matters to receive January 3, the first Wednesday in the month, instead of on New Year Day.

It does seem a pity that the day should be shorn of so much of its traditional brilliance in Washington—but, deo gratias, we'll still have the army and navy officers in their gold, dutifully paying their calls, to give a picturesque touch to the streets.

Merry Christmas to you all and may the coming year bring you much happiness. Fondly yours, JEAN ELIOT.

PETWORTH HOLD S
COMMUNITY FETEResidents Gather About Huge
Lighted Tree and Sing
Christmas Carols.

Glowing with hundreds of colored electric lamps, a huge pine tree in the gymnasium of the new Petworth Methodist Episcopal Church, at New Hampshire avenue and Grant circle, last night formed the center of a community Christmas celebration held under the auspices of the Petworth Citizens' Association. The tree was lighted shortly after 7 o'clock, and 500 residents gathered about its branches for an evening of sacred songs and Christmas carols.

The celebration began with an overture by an orchestra from the Petworth churches, which was followed by the yuletide hymn, "Joy to the World," sung by the community audience. As the strains of the sacred song died away, the lights of the hall were extinguished and the assembly room was thrown into darkness for a moment.

Green Branches Radiant.

Then, one by one, the vari-colored incandescent bulbs sprang into light until the background of green branches seemed radiant with a hundred points of fire.

Around the long-needed evergreen and the holly-decked walls the hundreds of citizens grouped themselves into a chorus and sang one after another of the old English carols. A joint choir from the Petworth churches, accompanied by the thirty-piece orchestra, rendered several hymns, and then prayer was offered by the Rev. G. E. Williams, pastor of the Petworth M. E. Church.

C. J. James Speaks.

An address was then given by C. J. James, president of the Petworth Citizens' Association. The significance of the birth of Christ and its influence on the march of civilization was the theme of the speaker. About a hundred children from the junior choirs of Petworth churches were present, and following the address they sang "O Silent Night," followed by several sacred songs and carols. Mrs. Minnie Hook Smith gave several trombone selections, and the musical program was closed with a Christmas song by the combined church choirs.

Citizens "Get Together."

The celebration was concluded with a "get together" of the entire citizen audience, in which the community residents had an opportunity to wish each other happy yuletides and talked over community projects informally.

The celebration was under the direction of a committee headed by Arthur T. Cole, of the Petworth Association. Mr. Cole presided over and directed the evening's program. The tree, which had been provided by Samuel A. Noer, was presented by him to Dr. Williams.

TREE FOR HORSES.

BOSTON, Dec. 24.—Horses are having their own Christmas celebration here. A real Xmas tree, laden with sugar lumps, apples and oats, and a real Santa Claus to dispense the gifts was set up in Postoffice Square.

READY FOR DANCE TUESDAY

Daughters of Confederacy to Give
Christmas Ball.

Final arrangements have been completed for the Christmas dance to be given Tuesday by Robert E. Lee Chapter, No. 644 United Daughters of the Confederacy, in the ball room of Confederate Memorial Home, 1322 Vermont avenue.

The decorations will be most attractive and Christmas favors will add much to the enjoyment of the evening. The president, Mrs. Walter E. Hutton, will receive the guests, assisted by the ladies of the chapter. Refreshments will be served by Mrs. Wallace Streater, Mrs. Nina M. Whitaker, and Mrs. Porter Barrett, while Mrs. George Covington will be in charge of the dance program.

Nichols in Delaware.

Mr. and Mrs. Roterius Nicholson are visiting Capt. and Mrs. John G. Donovan, Coast Artillery Corps, U. S. A., at Fort du Pont, Del., for the Christmas holidays. Mr. and Mrs. John P. Donovan, parents of Captain Donovan, are also with them for the holidays.

Mrs. Adams' House Guest.

Mrs. Mary L. Adams has as her house guest, her niece, Miss Ruth Ivanhoe Ford, who came to Washington to attend the reception and ball which the Southern Society gave Thursday evening at the Pan-American Union Building in compliment to the diplomats of the Central and Southern American countries.

Miss Ford who is attending a Virginia College will be graduated this season and will make her debut in the spring.

Benedict Xmas Ball.

Mrs. Joseph Letter, president of the board of the Children's Country Home, will head the receiving line at the ball at Rauscher's on Christmas night for the benefit of the home.

Mrs. C. C. Glover, Jr., Will Receive With Her.

The ushers will be Randall Hagner, Clark Waggaman, Walter Wyatt, Fleming Newman, Nathan Wyatt and C. C. Glover, Jr. Mrs. James W. Wadsworth, Jr., has been added to the list of box holders.

LOOKED YOUNGER BY
DARKENING HER GRAY HAIR

Changed Her Gray Hair to a Perfect Dark Shade Without Dyeing It.

Newark, N. J., Jan. 12, 1917. "I have used HAY'S HAIR HEALTH for some time now, and am very glad to find a preparation that really darkens gray hair so nicely of this kind that really lives up to its representation. It made me so much younger looking, too, that I will always stand ready to recommend it to anyone who wishes to have dark, soft, fluffy hair free from dandruff. It has done wonders for me, and am positive it will do the same for others."

Miss E. Wilkins, 441 Parker St. HAY'S HAIR HEALTH, a ready to use harmless Hair Color Restorer, can be applied evenly to the hair with sponge—only 50c a bottle at People's Drug Stores. They'll give money back if not satisfactory. Clifton Chemical Co., Newark, N. J.—Adv't.

A
Merry Christmas

We wish we could shake hands personally with each and every one of our customers, friends and acquaintances—

We wish we could look you straight in the eye and say, "You have our best wishes for the happiest Christmas you've ever had!"

For we mean just that!

But we can say it to you only in this way, through cold black type—

But we mean it when we say "A Merry Christmas to you all!"

E. F. Droop & Sons Co.
1300 G ST.

Steinway Pianos Player-Pianos

Open Today and Tomorrow

In case you have omitted any one from your gift list, you can find the desired gift at this store.

"Ogram Has It"

Gifts unique, useful, and beautiful, at all prices, for old and young.

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13th and Pa. Ave.

OPEN ALL DAY SUNDAY AND MONDAY.

Fur Sale
Everything Reduced

Red Fox Sets,

\$22.50

Black Fox Sets,

\$27.50

Natural Coon Sets,

\$17.50

Hudson Seal Coats,

Skunk Collars,

\$112.50

BABY'S SETS

All Styles

Wm. Rosendorf, 1213 G St.

(Opposite Dulin & Martin's).

CLOSED TOMORROW

A Merry Christmas
to All

From

The Palais Royal

A. LISNER